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UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 AMMAN 002184

SIPDIS

STATE FOR NEA/ARN, NEA/PA, NEA/AIA, INR/NESA, R/MR,  
I/GNEA, B/BXN, B/BRN, NEA/PPD  
USAID/ANE/MEA  
LONDON FOR GOLDRICH  
PARIS FOR O'FRIEL  
USCINCCENT/CCPA, USCENTCOM REAR MACDILL AFB FL  
NICOSIA FOR ILMG  
STATE PASS TO AID

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: KMDR JO

SUBJECT: JORDAN: MEDIA REACTION ON SITUATION IN THE  
OCCUPIED TERRITORIES, THE FUTURE OF ARAB-AMERICAN  
RELATIONS

#### SUMMARY

THE MAIN NEWS REPORTS IN JORDAN'S DAILIES WERE STILL  
DEVELOPMENTS IN THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES. THE  
PRINCIPAL ELEMENTS WERE THE END OF THE SIEGE ON  
ARAFAT'S HEADQUARTERS, ISRAEL'S REJECTION OF THE U.N.  
FACT-FINDING MISSION, AND ARAB CALLS TO EVOKE THE 7TH  
ARTICLE OF THE UN CHARTER.

A NUMBER OF EDITORIAL COLUMNISTS PRAISED THE KING'S  
ROLE IN UNDERTAKING HIS FORTHCOMING VISIT TO THE U.S.  
OTHERS COMMENTED GLOOMILY ON FUTURE ARAB-AMERICAN  
RELATIONS IN LIGHT OF THE U.S. POSITION ON THE MIDDLE  
EAST CONFLICT.

#### NEWS REPORTS

LEAD STORIES IN JORDAN'S DAILIES ON MAY 2 CONCENTRATED  
ON "THE START OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF ENDING THE SIEGE  
ON ARAFAT," AND THE TRANSFER OF "ZE'EV'S KILLERS TO  
JERICHO."

DAILIES ALSO REPORTED THE COLLAPSE OF THE FACT-FINDING  
MISSION, UNDER HEADLINES THAT ANNOUNCED: "SECURITY  
COUNCIL TO DEBATE THE ISRAEL'S REJECTION OF THE FACT-  
FINDING MISSION, ARAB DRAFT RESOLUTION CALLING TO EVOKE  
ARTICLE 7."

DAILIES ALSO QUOTED AGENCY REPORTS ABOUT A "U.S.-SAUDI  
STRATEGY TO PRESSURE ISRAEL INTO ENDING THE CURRENT  
CRISIS.

#### EDITORIAL COMMENTARIES

-- THE KING'S VISIT TO WASHINGTON  
PROMINENT DAILY COLUMNIST URAIB AL-RANTAWI WROTE IN  
CENTER-LEFT, INFLUENTIAL ARABIC DAILY AL-DUSTOUR ON MAY  
2: "HIS MAJESTY KING ABDULLAH STARTS AN IMPORTANT VISIT  
TO THE U.S. IN WHICH HE ADDRESSES AMERICAN PUBLIC  
OPINION AS WELL AS DECISION MAKING INSTITUTIONS, THINK  
TANKS, AND THE MEDIA. HIS DISCOURSE WILL HIGHLIGHT  
THREE POINTS: FIRST, THAT THE OSLO AGREEMENTS AND  
PHILOSOPHY HAVE COMPLETED THEIR FUNCTIONS, AND THAT  
THERE IS NO USE IN SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS WITHOUT A  
POLITICAL DIMENSION, OR TRANSITIONAL AGREEMENTS WITHOUT  
THE FINAL SETTLEMENT. SECOND, THAT WASHINGTON STANDS  
AS THE ONLY DECISION-MAKING CENTER THAT REMAINS  
CONFUSED BETWEEN THE NEO-CONSERVATIVE TREND THAT PUSHES  
FOR MORE FLAGRANT BIAS IN FAVOR OF THE HEBREW STATE,  
AND THE STATE DEPARTMENT THAT IS BEGINNING TO REALIZE  
THE CONSEQUENCES OF SUCH A POLICY. THIRD, THE NEED TO  
RESTORE THE PNA AND ITS LEADER AFTER THE CAMPAIGNS THAT  
AIMED TO MARGINALIZE AND DESTROY THEM. THIS DISCOURSE  
AND THE FIELD ACTIVITY THAT WILL FOLLOW WILL BE THE  
QUIET RESPONSE TO THE BOISTEROUS CLAMOR THAT SURROUNDS  
US WITHOUT HAVING ANY VISIBLE CONSEQUENCE."

-- SHOULD WE LOSE HOPE IN AN HONEST AMERICAN MEDIATION?  
FORMER NEWS DIRECTOR IN JORDAN TELEVISION YAQOUB JABER  
WROTE IN CENTER-LEFT, INFLUENTIAL ARABIC DAILY AL-  
DUSTOUR ON MAY 2: "I FEAR THAT THE PALESTINIANS HAVE  
LOST HOPE OF AN HONEST AMERICAN MEDIATION THAT MAY  
PRODUCE A JUST SETTLEMENT OF THEIR STRUGGLE WITH  
ISRAEL. AN HONEST MEDIATION WOULD EXERT PRESSURE ON  
ISRAEL THAT OCCUPIES THE LAND, KILLS AND MUTILATES THE  
PEOPLE, AND REJECTS PEACE. BUT WHAT WE HAVE SEEN FROM  
THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION IS THAT IT NOT CONTENTED WITH  
FLAGRANT SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL AND ITS BLOODY CRIMES IN  
PALESTINIAN TOWNS AND VILLAGES, BUT ALSO TOTAL ENMITY  
FOR PALESTINIANS AND THEIR LEGITIMATE LEADERSHIP. AND  
WE WOULD BE MISTAKEN TO THINK THAT THE PRESENT  
ADMINISTRATION IS MORE BIASED FOR ISRAEL THAN ITS  
PREDECESSORS. BUT WE SHOULD NOT REACH THE POINT OF  
DESPAIR. OUR OBJECTIVE SHOULD BE TO REACH AMERICAN

PUBLIC OPINION THAT MAY HAVE BEGUN TO BE AROUSED BY ISRAEL'S MOST RECENT CRIMES AND STARTED TO FEEL ITS WAY IN THE TOTAL OBSCURITY IMPOSED ON IT BY ZIONIST PROPAGANDA."

-- THE MORE IMPORTANT BATTLE HAS BEGUN DAILY COLUMNIST KHALIL AL-SAWAHIRI WROTE IN CENTER-LEFT, INFLUENTIAL ARABIC DAILY AL-DUSTOUR ON MAY 2: "THE SIGHT OF THE YOUTH IN JENIN CAMP, AFTER SURVIVING THE MASSACRE, AS THEY TROD ON CASES OF AID BEARING THE U.S. FLAG SENT WAVES OF PRIDE IN OUR SOULS THAT ARE SUNK IN SORROW AND FRUSTRATION. [THE PALESTINIANS] HAVE RETURNED TO AMERICA, THE FULL PARTNER IN THE CRIME, ITS CRUMBS OF ASSISTANCE THAT ARE SOAKED WITH THE BLOOD OF INNOCENT PALESTINIAN CHILDREN. AND LIKE THEM, ARABS REFUSE TO CONTINUE FINANCING THE BARBARIC AMERICAN ONSLAUGHT BY BOYCOTTING AMERICAN PRODUCTS. I WAS AMAZED TO HEAR MY SEVEN YEAR-OLD GRANDSON TALK ABOUT THIS BOYCOTT, FOR HE KNEW EXACTLY THE NUMBER AND TRADEMARKS OF THE PRODUCTS THAT HE AND OTHERS OF HIS GENERATION HAVE BOYCOTTED THROUGH THEIR CONVICTION THAT EVERY PENNY SPENT ON THEM WILL RETURN AGAINST US AS BULLETS AND BOMBS. AMERICA MAY NOT BE CONCERNED WITH THIS BOYCOTT, SINCE IT HAS LOTS OF OTHER MARKETS, BUT THE CRUCIAL POINT IS THAT ARAB AWARENESS HAS BEEN RESTORED. THE BOYCOTT IS NOT A MERE REFUSAL TO CONSUME, BUT A POLITICAL AND MORAL COMMITMENT THAT IS GROWING EVERY DAY, AND IT IS THE START OF THE CONFRONTATION AND ARAB SELF-DEFENSE AGAINST TOTAL SURRENDER TO AMERICA OR ANYONE ELSE. AMERICA WILL DISCOVER WHAT A QUAGMIRE IT HAS DRAGGED ITSELF IN BY ITS SHAMEFUL SUPPORT OF THE ISRAELI RACIST AND BARBARIC AGGRESSION." GNEHM